

Remarks/Arguments

Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Final Office Action of the Examiner mailed April 27, 2007 and the Advisory Action of the Examiner mailed August 16, 2007. Currently, claims 1-4 and 6-25 remain pending. Claims 1, 4, 6-14, 16-22, 24, and 25 have been rejected. Claims 2, 3, and 23 were objected to and claim 15 was allowed. By this amendment, claims 1, 3, and 23 have been amended and claims 2, 16-20, and 24-25 have been cancelled. Favorable consideration of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 4 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 15 was allowed and claims 2, 3, and 23 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Accordingly, without conceding the correctness of the Examiner's rejections, claim 1 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 2, and claim 23 has been amended to include all the limitations of base claim 1. In this amendment, Applicant has cancelled claims 2, 16-20, and 24-25 without prejudice. Therefore, claims 1, 3-4, 6-15, and 21-23 are believed to be allowable.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

On page 2 of the Final Office Action, claims 1, 4, 6-14, 21, 22, 24, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsugita (U.S. Patent No. 6,168,579). As indicated above, claim 1 has been amended to include all the limitations of original claim 2 and claims 21, 22, 24, and 25 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 1, 4, and 6-14 are believed to be allowable over Tsugita.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

On page 3 of the Final Office Action, claims 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsugita in view of Rosenbluth (U.S. Patent No. 6,511,492). As indicated above, claims 16-20 have been cancelled without prejudice and, thus, the rejection is considered moot.

In view of the foregoing, all pending claims are believed to be in a condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is anticipated. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

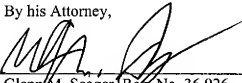
Respectfully submitted,

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By his Attorney,

Date:

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